

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 CU-02 /080 W
-----141720Z 065377 /43

O R 141620Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6268
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORTS. JUNE 16 ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE ARISING OUT OF
VARIOUS ACTIVITIES BY BLACKS TO OBSERVE JUNE 16 ANNIVERSARY
OF SOWETO RIOTS, WE PLAN SUBMIT DAILY SITREPS FOR REMAINDER OF
WEEK WHICH WILL INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONSTITUENT POSTS.
AS OF COB JUNE 14, GENERAL MOOD IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN MAJOR
URBAN AREAS CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF APPREHENSIVE
CALM. CALL FOR PEACE BY JUSTICE MINISTER KRUGER (CAPE TOWN
942) HAS BEEN ECHOED BY UP AND PRP SPOKESMEN (CAPE TOWN
954), BY NUMBER OF LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND BY DIRECTOR OF
SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS. IN ADDITION TO
RECENT DETENTIONS OF STUDENT LEADERS (JOHANNESBURG 1500),
POLICE HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN MAJOR
URBAN AREAS, MANNING ROADBLOCKS AND IN SOME BLACK AREAS
ACTIVELY PATROLLING. END SUMMARY

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1. IN CAPE TOWN, POLICE SEARCHED OFFICES OF STUDENT REPRESENTA-
TIVE COUNCIL (SRC) AT UCT, CONFISCATING SOME 5000 COPIES OF
PAMPHLET ENTITLED "SOLIDARITY" WHICH CALLED FOR CHANGE IN
SOUTH AFRICA AND EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH BLACKS. SRC
PRESIDENT TOLD CONGENOFF SOME 5,000 COPIES OF PAMPHLET HAD
ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED. HE SAID POLICE CLAIMED THAT
PAMPHLET HAD BEEN DECLARED "UNDESIRABLE" UNDER PUBLICATIONS

ACT OF 1974 BY A PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER COMMITTEE HAD EVEN MET AND NOTED THAT SO FAR AS SRC AWARE NO SPECIAL GAZETTE DECLARING THE LEAFLET UNDESIRABLE HAD BEEN ISSUED. OFFICE OF NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS WAS ALSO SEARCHED AND MATERIALS CONFISCATED. AT "COLORED" UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE, CAMPUS IS QUIET BUT THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS THAT STUDENTS PLAN "PRAYER MEETING" ON 16TH WHICH SOME FACULTY FEARED MIGHT LEAD TO MORE VIOLENT ACTIVITY.

2. IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS, RIOT POLICE CONTINUE TO PATROL STREETS AND TO CONDUCT RANDOM CHECKS OF DOCUMENTS AND AUTOMOBILES AT ENTRANCES OF TOWNSHIPS. ANONYMOUS LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED WERE WEEKEND CALLING FOR 3-DAY STRIKE JUNE 16-18 AND WARNING SHOPS TO CLOSE TO AVOID BEING BURNED. IN PORT ELIZABETH, YOUTHS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF NEW BRIGHTON STONED BUSES, DAMAGING 29 AND BREAKING JAW OF ONE DRIVER EVENING OF JUNE 13. POLICE SAID IT WAS WORK OF JUVENILES, THAT ORDER HAD BEEN RESTORED QUICKLY AND THAT NO FURTHER INCIDENTS OCCURRED AS OF MID-DAY THE 14TH.

3. DURBAN - POLICE IN NATAL ARE MOVING TO DISRUPT ANY PLANS BLACKS MAY HAVE TO COMMEMORATE THE JUNE 16 SOWETO UPRISING. ROADBLOCKS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AT A FEW SELECTED POINTS AROUND DURBAN AND AT SOME TRAFFIC CHOKE POINTS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE PROVINCE. CARS WITH BLACKS ARE STOPPED, WHILE MOST WHITE MOTORISTS ARE ALLOWED THROUGH. SHOOTING INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED AT TWO POLICE CHECK POINTS OUTSIDE DURBAN OVER THE PAST WEEKEND. A COLORED MAN, WHO WAS WOUNDED BY POLICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEN HE FAILED TO STOP AT ONE OF THE ROADBLOCKS, IS BEING CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER FOR HITTING A POLICEMAN WITH HIS CAR. IN OTHER INCIDENT, AT ESIKHAWINI TOWNSHIP 100 MILES NORTH OF DURBAN ON THE COAST, TWO BLACKS FLED AFTER BEING STOPPED AT A ROADBLOCK. POLICE FIRED AT THEM AND GAVE CHASE BUT WERE UNABLE TO APPREHEND THE PAIR. POLICE HAVE NOT MADE AVAILABLE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT EITHER INCIDENT.

4. THE ROUND-UP OF BLACK STUDENT AND POLITICAL LEADERS THAT BEGAN WITH THE DETENTION OF REVEREND NGIDI OF THE BCP ON MAY 7 (DURBAN 295) AND CONTINUED WITH THE MAY 25 BANNING OF SASO PERMANENT ORGANIZER SILOMOKO SOKUPHA (DURBAN 321) HAS BEEN FOLLOWING BY THE JUNE 13 BANNING IN DURBAN OF SASO'S NATIONAL PRESIDENT MONGEZI STOPHILE. HE WAS BANNED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, RESTRICTED TO KWATHEMA, NEAR SPRINGS, AND PROHIBITED FROM CONTACT WITH SASO, BPC, SASM AND BLACK PEOPLES ASSOCIATION. IN ADDITION, OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE POLICE HAVE DETAINED SEVERAL LOCAL BLACK LEADERS, INCLUDING DAVID GASA AND GEORGE SITHOLE, WHO ARE ALREADY

BANNED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE UMLAZI RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, AND NORMAN DUBAZANA AND DELIZA MJI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, WHO HAD ALSO BEEN DETAINED DURING THE 1976 DISTURBANCES. ALL BUT MJI HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT GASA AND SITHOLE WILL BE CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF THEIR BANNING ORDERS.

5. THE SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY QUIET SO FAR. A STUDENT LEADER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND TOLD A CONGENOFF THAT THE STUDENTS THERE PLANNED A PEACEFUL, RELIGIOUS WEEK OF MEMORIAL ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE 1976 EVENTS. HOWEVER, TENSIONS HAVE BEEN HIGH AT THE SCHOOL SINCE IT WAS REOPENED FOLLOWING THE VIOLENCE LAST YEAR, AND THE POTENTIAL REMAINS FOR A REPETITION OF LAST YEAR'S EVENTS. BLACK STUDENT LEADERS AT ESHOWE TEACHERS' COLLEGE CALLED FOR A BOYCOTT OF CLASSES JUNE 6 AND THE SCHOOL WAS CLOSED BY THE KWAZULU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THERE IS NO INDICATION FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFIC REASON FOR THE BOYCOTT CALL.

6. PRETORIA - IN MEETING AT EMBASSY, RELIABLE AND INFORMED SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT RIOTING BROKE OUT BRIEFLY IN MAMELODI THIS MORNING (JUNE 14). DETAILS ARE NOT CLEAR BUT APPARENTLY THERE WAS STONE THROWING AT VEHICLES AND ARSON ATTEMPT ON POLICE STATION. AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS INDICATE BUS AND CAR BELONGING TO BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOARD WERE STONED AND THAT OFFICIALS WHO WENT TO INVESTIGATE WERE ALSO STONED. POLICE WERE THEN SENT TO DISPERSE RIOTERS. SOURCE IS FEARFUL THAT MAMELODI STUDENTS ARE NOW CONTEMPLATING CONTINUED VIOLENCE THIS WEEK AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A QUANTITY OF WEAPONS WERE NON CIRCULATING IN MAMELODI. IN FACT, HE SAID, ONE OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN CARLTON SHOOTING WAS FROM MAMELODI AND HAD STORED WEAPONS THERE. REPORT ON WEAPONS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT TENSIONS ARE GROWING IN PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS AND EMBASSY SOURCES ARE EXPRESSING INCREASED CONCERN OVER LIKELIHOOD OF TROUBLE.

7. LOCAL EMPLOYEE INFORMED EMBASSY TODAY THAT, ALTHOUGH SRC'S IN PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS HAVE NOT ASKED FOR WORK BOYCOTTS, STUDENTS ON STREETS ARE MAKING IT CLEAR TO RESIDENTS THAT THEY SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM WORK ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY OR FACE SOME RETALIATION. PRESS REPORTS THAT SEVERAL ATTERIDGEVILLE SRC MEMBERS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED ON JUNE 13 FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT PAMPHLETS THEY WERE DISTRIBUTING. PAMPHLETS WERE THOSE DESCRIBED IN PRETORIA 2858. STUDENTS WERE RELEASED. PRESS ALSO REPORTED ON JUNE 14 THAT TURFLOOP UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO CLASS BOYCOTT FOR LAST WEEK BUT THAT POLICE REPORTED NO VIOLENCE AT UNIVERSITY.

8. JOHANNESBURG - THERE WERE SERIES OF SMALL INCIDENTS DURING THE DAY INVOLVING STONING OF BUSES AND OTHER VEHICLES. AT ORLANDO WEST HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES WERE BOYCOTTED AND 900 STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED. SIMILAR BOYCOTTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS HELD AT SEVERAL OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS. POLICE ARE APPARENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUT IN FORCE BUT ARE KEEPING IN BACKGROUND AND MAKING EFFORT NOT TO CONFRONT DEMONSTRATION. THERE WERE NO RPT NO REPORTS OF POLICE CLASHES WITH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATIONS. CALL FOR STAY AT HOME STRIKE REPORTEDLY HAS NOW BEEN WIDENED TO INCLUDE JUNE 1618. TOWNSHIPS SAID TO BE TENSE BUT QUIET.

9. COMMENT. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS, RANKS OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN SEVERELY THINNED OUT DURING PAST YEAR. DANGER OF SPORADIC AND UNCOORDINATED INCIDENTS SPIRALLING INTO LARGER PATTERN OF VIOLENCE IS EXACERBATED BY APPARENT DISORGANIZATION AND LACK OF STRONG LEADERSHIP AMONG STUDENTS. BOWLDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2166445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION REPORTS. JUNE 16 ANNIVERSARY SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE ARISING OUT OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES BY BLACKS TO OBSERVE JUNE 16 AN
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fa7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009